

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Mitsuhiko KURANO                      Examiner: (To be assigned)  
Ser. No.: 10/597953                      Art Group: (To be assigned)  
Title: DIRECT HEATING TUBE AND METHOD OF HEATING FLUID USING  
SAME  
Filed: 14 August 2006                      Date: 23 August 2006

**THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This Third Preliminary Amendment is filed to correct minor typographical errors in the claims, to cancel current claim 18 and to present new claim 21. Please amend the application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION – none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS - are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 2.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS – none.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS – begin on page 5.